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## **City of Salisbury Mayor's Spirit Luncheon to Honor Diverse Community Outreach through Positive Youth Initiatives**

*Salisbury City Council and Covenant Community Connection to Uplift Local Outreach Programs during Luncheon*

Salisbury, NC\_October 6, 2008 – Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz, in conjunction with City Council Members and the Covenant Community Connection, will graciously welcome attendees to the 2008 Mayor's Spirit Luncheon, to be held at noon on Tuesday, October 7. The program, entitled "Celebrating our Community's Response: Reaching out to our Children," will take place at Salisbury City Hall, 217 South Main Street. The bi-annual event highlights successes within the community which have improved race relations. A diverse audience, consisting of local businessmen and women, faith leaders and citizens, will receive a motivational program highlighting an array of community youth intervention programs currently underway throughout Salisbury-Rowan.

Mayor Kluttz will uplift a variety of diverse outreach programs which support the community's plea for positive youth intervention, as shared through the Salisbury-Rowan United Summit event during June of last year. These constructive efforts to deter youth violence and provide positive youth opportunities include mentoring, tutoring, youth services, family day events, recreational opportunities, faith programs, Project Safe Neighborhoods intervention programs and more. In addition, the luncheon will feature individual presentations by Pastor Jennifer Ginn of St. John's Lutheran Church and Pastor Bill Godair of Cornerstone Church. Both ministers will share their own unique and constructive outreach programs, delivered via the venues of art and music respectively.

Attendees will enjoy port-a-pit barbecue chicken dinners, purchased in support of the annual Habit for Humanity fundraising project. As is tradition, Mayor Kluttz will introduce three local diverse clergy and faith leaders, whom each in-turn, will offer the invocation through blessings, prayers and words of praise. The Mayor notes, "It is truly through the sharing of these varied invocations, that we are able to realize, represent, and uplift the multitude of religions, ethnicities, and beliefs present within our Salisbury Community." In addition, the Mayor shares that "Today's purpose is three-fold; as we bring together people of different races,

religions, and cultures, we encourage and promote better race relations in the community and highlight recent efforts in the community to make Salisbury-Rowan better for all people. By celebrating and appreciating diversity throughout our community, we are able to create stronger awareness for the dedicated efforts taking place in support of this cause.”

Kluttz emphasizes that the programs uplifted during the Spirit Luncheon portray an overwhelming community response to past citizen feedback. “The Salisbury-Rowan United Summit was attended by over 500 citizens who offered an appeal for positive youth intervention programs to deter youth violence and create a safer Salisbury-Rowan for all.” Continuing, the Mayor offers that, “Our community has responded eagerly and without hesitation by supplying positive opportunities and affirmative character models for our youth. Today we celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of the many successes underway throughout our community. Programs which cross cultural boundaries provide a positive youth experience and offer a promising future for our children.”

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